

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 IO-14 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 IGA-02 USIA-15 PC-10 INT-08

FDRE-00 INR-11 SP-03 L-03 DRC-01 /196 W

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R 131215Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AID FOR AA/ARR DR. ADAMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NG

SUBJECT: US GRAIN ALLOCATION FOR SAHEL PRE-1974 HARVEST PERIOD

REF: A) STATE 167108; B) STATE 171883

1. US DELIVERIES OF EMERGENCY FOOD GRAINS TO NIGER ARE ABOUT OVER FOR THIS CROP YEAR AND WE ARE BEGINNING TO PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR (REFTELS). BELIEVE WE CAN TAKE SOME SATISFACTION IN OUR DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES THIS YEAR WHICH HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY AVERTED FAMINE IN THIS COUNTRY. ACCORDINGLY, UPON RECEIPT REFTELS INDICATING USG WAS ALREADY PLANNING AN INTERIM COMMITMENT FOR 1975 PROGRAM AND AS STARTER HAD ALLOCATED 25,000 TONS TO NIGER, I DECIDED UNDERLINE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE NEW DECISIONS BY BREAKING NEWS FIRST TO PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE. AT MEETING WITH HIME MORNING AUGUST 12, I DREW ON REFTELS, INFORMED HIM OF ALLOCATION OF 25,000

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TONS FOR NIGER WITH SHIPMENTS TO BEGIN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER,

AND CITED THIS AS EVIDENCE OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN PROVIDING RELIEF TO DROUGHT AFFECTED STATES. THIS CONTRIBUTION WOULD HELP IN MEETING PRE-HARVEST NEEDS AND EVEN IF CROPS THIS YEAR WERE GOOD AS NOW SEEMS POSSIBLE, THIS ALLOCATION WOULD HELP IN BUILDING RESERVES AND IN PROVIDING MORE EXPEDITIOUS AND EFFICIENT SCHEDULING OF FOOD DELIVERY DURING COMING YEAR.

2 I ALSO STRESSED THAT WITH THIS CONTRIBUTION FOR NEW CROP YEAR IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE RECEIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE GON'S BEST ESTIMATES FOR EMERGENCY FOOD REQUIREMENTS FOR 1975 PROGRAM WHICH WERE NECESSARY TO COME TO DECISIONS REGARDING SUBSEQUENT ALLOCATIONS OF FOOD TO NIGER.

3. KOUNTCHE RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT ONCE AGAIN HE WANTED TO EXPRESS NIGER'S APPRECIATION FOR THIS GENEROUS INITIATIVE BY US WHICH UNDERLINED USG'S SENSE OF CONCERN AND INITIATIVES IN DROUGHT ASSISTANCE. AS WE KNEW, HE PREFERRED THAT NIGER BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION BUT AGREED THAT EVEN IF CROP THIS YEAR WAS GOOD, THERE WOULD STILL BE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE UNTIL COUNTRY BUILT UP RESERVE SUPPLIES. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS HARD AT WORK DRAWING UP ESTIMATES OF FUTURE REQUIREMENTS AND WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH US SHORTLY TO SHARE THESE ESTIMATES.HECK

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Message Attributes

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